

MONEY SCARCE

BRITISH FINANCIERS APPREHENSIVE OVER THE SITUATION.

Bank of England Forced to Raise the Rate of Discount from 3 and 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 Per Cent.

WILL CHECK GOLD SHIPMENTS

AND PREVENT FURTHER DECREASE OF AMERICAN RESERVES.

Views of the Statist, Which Presents a Pessimistic View of Financial Conditions at London.

FRENCH NATIONAL FETES

REVIEW OF THE TROOPS BY M. LOUBET AT LONGCHAMPS.

Cheers for the President, M. Marchand, and the Army and the Republic—A Few Minor Disturbances.

LONDON, July 14.—The Press Association today sent out the following statement, which is believed to be accurate: "Business in financial circles is considerably checked, owing to a certain anxiety as to the future and the remarkable reticence maintained in all quarters, the scarcity of money and the recent large sales of consols. A block of £1,000,000 is reported to have been sold Wednesday. To add to the apprehension is the season when the provinces require more money than usual in connection with the activity of the summer. Nevertheless, bankers and others are keeping large surplus balances for emergencies. It is well known that a considerable amount of German bills are held here at speculation rates, and that a large amount of credits are on a Berlin firm which recently failed. It is understood that the bank and others have arranged to take the bills as they arrive from the East through July at 1 1/2, and as the discount is 2 1/2 there is a very serious matter for the firm. Rumors are therefore current of impending financial difficulties, and under the circumstances it is not surprising that banks and others are being more than usual in connection with the general rate should be put up to 4, but it is keeping surplus balances well in hand."

The Statist, in its editorial on the money outlook, to-morrow will say: "The Bank of England has raised the rate from 3 and 3/4 per cent. to 4 1/2 per cent. for short advances. There was some question whether the general rate should be put up to 4, but it was finally decided that an advance of 1/2 per cent. would be sufficient for the moment. This step was forced upon the bank by further heavy reductions in the reserves of the New York banks from \$20,000,000 to \$10,000,000. This reduction not only means further gold shipments from the United States out of the question, but brought London to face the possibility of New York taking money from Europe so soon as wheat begins to move. The continued outflow of cash into the country, the French competition for gold in the London market, the inability of the bank and others to obtain gold abroad to a greater extent than is necessary to meet international requirements and the ability of Japan to take gold away if she requires it—these are all additional factors for protecting the bank reserve. Since June 21 the reserve has declined about \$2,000,000. Will it decline further? Is the question. Last year at this date the reserve stood at more than \$25,000,000. Then we were calling in money from Germany, and the United States was taking payment for wheat and cotton largely in securities. This year we have no balances in the bank and may be unable to pay the United States by selling stocks. Hence we must be prepared either to offer a discount rate sufficiently high to induce American banks to keep balances on this side or to send gold in payment for produce. We may consequently witness a 5 per cent. rate here and a higher rate in Germany than last year."

FRANCE'S NATIONAL FETE DAY.

Military Review at Longchamps Witnessed by a Large Crowd.

PARIS, July 14.—Magnificent weather today favored the National day. The public and private buildings were decorated with flags. MM. Deroulade and Marcel-Habert and several hundred members of the Patriotic League marched to the Place de la Concorde and deposited a wreath at the foot of the Strasbourg statue, amid cries of "Vive l'Armee!" "Vive Deroulade!" M. Deroulade, in turn, shouted "Vive la Republique Francaise!" "Vive la Nation Francaise!" "Vive l'Alsace-Lorraine!" He then requested the leaders to disperse. Some of them attempted to continue the demonstration, but the police scattered them. Enormous crowds wended their way towards Longchamps from early morning to witness the military review. Stringent precautions were taken for the preservation of order. The Cabinet ministers began to arrive at 2 o'clock. The President, the Chamber of Deputies, M. Deschanel, and the officials of the House were welcomed with shouts of "Vive le Republique!" and "Vive l'Armee!" but there were isolated cries of a seditious character, which led to some arrests near the Carre Four des Cascaides.

President Loubet left the Elysee Palace at 2:30 p. m. in a carriage drawn by four horses. He was accompanied by the minister of war, General Marquis de Galliffet, and General Baillou. In a second carriage were the premier, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, and others. Along the entire route the President was greeted with "Vive Loubet!" and "Vive la Republique!" When he arrived at Longchamps the shouts were redoubled. After receiving the congratulations of the officials the President turned towards the crowds and bowed repeatedly. General Kermartin handed over the command of the troops to General Brugere, the military governor of Paris, and the review began forthwith. General Brugere galloped along the front of the line and the distribution of decorations followed. Then the general took up a position in front of the presidential stand and the march past began. As each regiment passed the presidential stand its flag was dipped and the President rose and saluted the colors. Each time he was greeted with cheering for the army. Suddenly a roar of applause assailed

from the distant masses of spectators and increased in volume as M. Marchand, the French explorer and principal figure in the French side in the Fashoda incident, mounted on a superb black charger, and surrounded by the Sudanese soldiers, who had accompanied him across the African continent, appeared, and amid increasing excitement passed the President. The air was filled with deafening cries of "Vive Marchand!" and "Vive l'Armee!" and hats and handkerchiefs were thrown upwards on all sides. As President Loubet arose the cheers were redoubled and continued until the little band of Sudanese disappeared in the distance.

The review concluded at 4:30 p. m. President Loubet, seated in the Elysee Palace at 4:50 p. m. and was greeted with loud applause. Later the President wrote a letter to the minister of war congratulating him on the success of the military display and adding that it had been demonstrated that the training, bearing and discipline of the army left nothing to be desired. He also marking that the hearty cheers of the people testified to France's confidence in her national defenders. The letter specially referred to the splendid appearance of the new artillery, the organization of which had cost so much money and labor.

Disturbances from various garrisons, including Rennes, reported that the reviews were carried out without incident. The troops were acclaimed with the usual shouts of "Vive l'Armee!" and "Vive la Republique!"

DESTRUCTION AT CHERBOURG.

CHERBOURG, July 14.—After the fireworks display this evening some soldiers belonging to the Marine Infantry destroyed the Venetian mast and the festoons and lanterns. The police interfered but were beaten back and maltreated. Mounted gendarmes and troops were then summoned to restore order, but the disorders continued to a late hour. Sixty marines were arrested and taken to the depot, where they became very violent. Many people were injured during the affray. The town is occupied to-night by the military.

TWO SECTIONS ADOPTED.

Transvaal Volksraad "Railroad" the Franchise Bill.

PRETORIA, July 14.—The Volksraad today adopted the first two sections of the franchise bill. During the course of the debate it was declared Great Britain had caused the present trouble. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain being the prime mover. It was added the new law was lenient and could not be altered.

CAPE COLONY'S PARLIAMENT.

CAPE TOWN, July 14.—The Parliament of Cape Colony was opened today. A large crowd of people assembled outside the Parliament building and the speaker, Sir Alfred Milner, the British high commissioner and Governor of Cape Colony, with deafening cheers, after which "God Save the Queen" was twice sung by the people. The speech of the Governor did not refer to the political situation excepting when he said that the Cape Colony and the several colonies and the territories of South Africa were friendly.

By the invitation of Sir Alfred Milner Rear Admiral Howison and the officers of the United States ship Chicago occupied seats on the floor of the throne room at the opening of Parliament. This is an unprecedented distinction for foreigners. They were greeted with the greatest enthusiasm.

Americans in the Transvaal.

NEW YORK, July 14.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: "Although taking no active part in the effort to obtain redress for the outlanders in the Transvaal the administration undoubtedly sympathizes with Great Britain in its endeavor to obtain concessions from President Kruger. Information in the State Department shows that Americans in business in the South African republic are restricted as to the British and other outlanders. This information is not a protest from Americans but has been furnished by consular officers who, under instructions, are closely following the negotiations between the British and Boer governments. The report that Admiral Delagade bay and will join his flagship, the Chicago, at Cape Town, is under instructions to make diplomatic representations to the Boer government in the interests of Americans is declared untrue at both the Navy and State Departments where, it is asserted, no instructions whatever to Admiral Howison to make the trip had been issued. Under the naval regulations an officer in foreign territory is required to make a report on anything of interest to the United States, so that it is expected that the admiral will send to Washington a full report of the conditions he finds in the Transvaal."

ARBITRATION PACT TO BE AMENDED.

LONDON, July 15.—The correspondent of the Times at The Hague says: "With a view of the preliminary stage of the arbitration court, Mr. Hollis, of the American delegation, has proposed an amendment which, it is understood, Great Britain and Germany, as well as some other powers, will cordially support. This is to the effect that the court shall be empowered, at the preliminary stage of the proceedings, with the consent of both parties, to order an international commission of inquiry whenever the facts or circumstances seem to warrant such a course."

CONCESSION TO AGRARIANS.

LONDON, July 15.—The Berlin correspondent of the Times, with reference to the prohibition of fresh American meat from Belgium, says: "The government says there is danger of introduction of Texas fever. Hence, the veterinary authorities, goes so far as to admit that infection is just conceivable, but there is little doubt the prohibition was issued in the Agrarian interest rather than for hygienic reasons. It is understood Washington is communicating with Berlin on the subject."

BOMBS EXPLODED AT BARCELONA.

BARCELONA, July 14.—Four bombs were exploded in different parts of the city this morning. No serious damage was done, but the explosion was intense. The author of the outrage is unknown.

CABLE NOTES.

Lady Salisbury, who has been suffering from a paralytic attack, is much better. Four ironclads and a flotilla of torpedo boats have started from Odessa for Batoum to convey the remains of the Czarwitsch to Sebastopol.

Blazo Petrovics, a relative of Prince Nicholas, of Montenegro, has been arrested on a charge of complicity in the recent assassination of King Milan, of Serbia.

LIFE UNDERWRITERS ELEC OFFICERS.

BUFFALO, N. Y., July 14.—The National Association of Life Underwriters elected the following officers to-day: President, James L. Johnson, Springfield, Mass.; secretary, E. W. Christy, Cleveland, O.; treasurer, E. B. Weeks, Litchfield, Conn.; vice president, E. B. Carlinman, Albany, N. Y.; J. L. Kaufman, Minneapolis, D. C.; George D. Smith, St. Louis, Mo.; J. W. Tyndall, Jr., Jacksonville, Fla.; F. A. Stal, San Francisco, Cal.; C. T. Thompson, Chattanooga, Tenn.; J. S. Putnam, Portland, Me.; A. H. Babcock, Michigan; executive committee, H. S. Ayres, Pittsburgh; J. W. Tyndall, Jr., Cincinnati; C. E. Ady, Omaha; Col. H. S. Fuller, Milwaukee; Capt. F. A. King, Cleveland.

BANK WRECKED

ROBBED OF MONEY ESTIMATED ALL THE WAY UP TO \$105,000.

Middlesex County Bank of Perth Amboy, N. J., Forced to Close Through Rascality of Its Cashier.

ACCOUNTS WERE DOCTORED

BOOKS SEEMED TO BE CORRECT, BUT WERE MISLEADING.

Defalcation Detected by the President, Who Found No Money When the Cashier Failed to Appear.

LATTER IS NOW IN PRISON

SORRY FOR WIFE AND FRIENDS, BUT DECLINES TO TALK.

Run on an Allied Savings Institution, and Police Necessary to Maintain Order—Shortage to Be Made Good.

NEW YORK, July 14.—George M. Valentine, cashier of the Middlesex County Bank of Perth Amboy, N. J., which was closed to-day, has surrendered himself and is now in jail on account of a shortage in the bank's funds, which has been variously estimated all the way to \$105,000. The affair caused consternation among the business men of Perth Amboy, where the Middlesex Bank was considered as strong as the eternal hills. So panic-stricken did the residents of Perth Amboy become when it was learned the Middlesex Bank had failed to open for business as usual this morning that crowds surrounded the Perth Amboy Savings Institution. What made the run on the savings bank appear all the more serious was the fact that the officers of the Middlesex Bank and the officers of the Perth Amboy Savings Institution are identical, the business of both banks being transacted over the same counter. Though it became necessary to call for the aid of the police for the purpose of maintaining order, U. B. Watson, the president of both banks, says the funds of the Perth Amboy Savings Institution were not touched, that the \$30,000 deposited to the account of the savings institution is absolutely safe, and that, no matter how badly the Middlesex Bank has been wrecked, the savings bank will be able to meet the demands made on it by the depositors. These words of assurance from the officers of the savings bank had the effect of checking the run on this bank during the afternoon.

The notice on the door of the Middlesex Bank this morning was as follows: "Bank closed on account of the withdrawal of the depositors." On Monday last Cashier George M. Valentine evidently concluded that he could no longer conceal the shortage at the Middlesex Bank. On that morning he telephoned President Watson he was detained, but said he would appear at noon. The bank had then opened for business, and Mr. Watson, who was taking the absent cashier's place, discovered there should have been some \$7,000 in bills on hand to commence operations that morning. These he could not find in the vault. Mr. Watson was then searching for it when Valentine called. He asked Valentine what he had done with the money, and was told it had been placed in the cashier's private drawer. Mr. Watson remarked that there was no place for it, but ran off on the phone and went to get it. A duplicate key to the drawer was obtained from the cashier, and the money was found. The cashier's father, was summoned, and he aided in the search for the missing money. It could not be found, and finally the work of checking was begun. Then it soon became evident that during the last few months the cashier had been juggling. The other trustees were summoned and the banking department was notified to send an examiner. Deputy Commissioner of Banking Johnson appeared in response.

On Wednesday Mrs. Valentine, wife of the cashier, returned from Ocean Grove and called at the bank and wanted to know where her husband was. This was the first intimation she had that he was not on duty and showed the officials that Valentine was not at the seashore, as at first appeared. On Monday the Park National Bank, of New York, called the Middlesex Bank with checks to the amount of \$4,000, which are said to have been drawn on it against the account of the Middlesex by Valentine.

A detailed investigation of matters by the cashier, returned from Ocean Grove and showed the cashier's accounts and stubs did not correspond, that the checks called for more money than the stubs recorded and that while taking the stubs as the basis of accounting the bank's finances would figure out all right the checks would show the bank had been drawing heavily on the New York correspondent, the Park National Bank. The cashier, in fact, carried the accounts on the stubs and from them to the books correctly, but when the returns from the cashier's checks came he pocketed the difference between the stub and the check. Four or five months of this method of financing depleted the bank's reserve money and brought it to the verge of ruin. Then the cashier evidently secured a portion of the ready cash on hand and left Perth Amboy.

Thursday night the determination to close the bank was reached and Mr. Watson notified Chief of Police Burke and asked him to locate the missing cashier. Valentine, who had been in New York city, returned to Perth Amboy from Woodbridge, accompanied by his counsel, Edward Savage. He declined to go into details about the shortage except to say he was very sorry that he had got his friends into trouble and felt very bad about his wife and children. President Watson is of the opinion the cashier's defalcation will amount to at least \$125,000. Where the money went is unknown, as the cashier is said to have been moderate in taste and habits of life. The Middlesex County Bank was operated under a state charter and had been in business many years.

Cashier Valentine was for years a clerk in the Park National Bank, of New York. In 1893 he was made cashier of the Middlesex Bank. His bond was fixed for \$50,000. His relatives are wealthy and it is said they will try to make good the shortage.

The National Park Bank, of this city, has obtained an attachment in the Supreme Court for \$13,500 against the Middlesex County Bank of Perth Amboy, N. J., \$30,300

on overdrafts and \$13,500 due on collections. The attachment was granted by Justice Stover, of the Supreme Court. Deputy Sheriff McGuire attached mining stocks and bonds belonging to the bank at the office of the National Park Bank.

MINE DISASTER.

Sixty Coal Diggers Entombed in Germany by an Earthquake.

BERLIN, July 14.—A slight earthquake to-day caused the collapse of a gallery in the Rockhausen mine, near Herne, Westphalia, entombing sixty miners. Several have been rescued badly injured. The fate of the others is not yet known. The shock destroyed walls and broke windows in Herne and was felt as far as Munster. It was also noticeable at Laibach, Austria.

BICYCLE TRUST BREAKS

THE BANKERS FAIL TO SUPPLY FUNDS TO FLOAT IT.

C. F. Smith's Private Advances Yesterday Are Confirmed by the Associated Press.

The proposed bicycle trust, which was to have been capitalized at \$500,000, went to pieces yesterday. The trust was organized by C. F. Smith and others interested. The telegrams stated that the bankers who were to furnish the funds to purchase about forty of the largest concerns of the country had withdrawn their support. Mr. Smith had no information further than the above. An Associated Press dispatch last night, from Chicago, confirmed the report. This dispatch said there was a hitch in the final proceedings. A. G. Spaulding is said to have put \$275,000 into the transaction thus far. When the trust was first contemplated 123 companies were to be included, but this number was finally cut down to forty-three, controlled about 80 per cent. of the output.

ALL WILL BE ARRESTED

OFFICIALS IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR DISREGARDING A WRIT.

Execution of William Goings Probably Illegal—Judge Went Fishing After Granting a Stay.

TULSA, I. T., July 14.—Judge Thomas, of the Federal Court, ordered a stay of the execution of the sentence against William Goings by writ of habeas corpus. He followed this by issuing a writ of habeas corpus ordering the Choctaw officers to have the prisoner before the judge at Muskogee, I. T., July 22. After issuing the writ the judge went fishing in a stream in the Osage Nation, twenty miles from here. He cannot be reached at present with the news of the disregard of the writ.

ANTLERS, I. T., July 14.—Deputy Marshal Bert Brown and a posse left Antlers, this afternoon, for Alchiki, with warrants for the arrest of twenty-seven people, court officials and others for contempt in refusing to grant a stay of execution on a writ of habeas corpus issued by Judge Thomas Wednesday. The warrants are for the sheriff of Wolf county, the district attorney for the Third Choctaw district, the judge, clerk and a number of deputy sheriffs. No trouble is anticipated over the arrests.

May Be Fined.

WASHINGTON, July 14.—It is said at the Department of Justice that if the Choctaw Indian authorities refused to recognize a writ of habeas corpus regularly issued by a judge of the Federal Court in the case of the Indian, Walla Tonka (William Goings), who was executed in the Indian Territory yesterday, the judge has the undoubted right to punish the offenders for contempt of court. The Department of Justice, however, has no jurisdiction in the matter as it now stands and whether the federal judge will prosecute the Indians for contempt is a matter clearly within his discretion.

Not Contempt of Court.

SOUTH ALABAMA, July 14.—The reported execution of Walla Tonka by the Choctaw authorities at Alchiki in spite of a writ of habeas corpus issued from the Federal Court, was called to the attention of Judge Clayton, of this district, who stated that Judge Thomas had no jurisdiction in the case, and that the execution of the Indian by the Indian chief was not in contempt of any court.

MESSAGE FROM DEWEY

CRUISER OLYMPIA IN VOLUNTARY QUARANTINE AT PORT SAID.

The Admiral's Next Stopping Place to Be Trieste—Will Arrive at New York About Oct. 1.

WASHINGTON, July 14.—Secretary Long has received the following cable message from Admiral Dewey, dated Port Said: "Olympia in voluntary quarantine. As soon as cooled, proceed Trieste for pratique and recuperation of officers and men."

Inasmuch as he is silent on the subject, it is assumed that no change has occurred in the health of Admiral Dewey and his men since their arrival from Hong-Kong, when all were reported well. It is said at the Navy Department that the admiral's reference to "pratique" means simply that he is going to Trieste to get a clean bill of health, that will enable him to continue his voyage through the Mediterranean without delay from the health authorities at the various ports.

Will Reach New York About Oct. 1.

NEW YORK, July 14.—The plan and scope of the trip of the U. S. S. Olympia to Europe and back, which was received from Charles Dewey, brother of the admiral, that the admiral will arrive in New York about Oct. 1. The newspaper men of the country at large will be given an opportunity to participate in the reception to Dewey. The press committee met to-day at the City Hall and decided to reserve for the visitors, and they will be invited to participate in all of the festivities incident to the occasion.

NO JOINT ACTION

AMERICA AND BRITAIN TO MAKE SEPARATE REPRESENTATIONS.

Good Offices of Our Minister at Peking to Be Exerted in Behalf of Railway Concessionaires.

CHINA ALREADY IN HOT WATER

DISTRACTED BY THE RIVAL CLAIMS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS.

And Nothing Will Be Done by This Country Except to See that Our Interests Do Not Suffer.

STATUS OF THE CONCESSION

THAT HAS BEEN POOLED WITH AN ENGLISH COMPANY'S GRANT.

Minister Wu Ting Fang's Statement—Banks Prohibited from Affixing Stamps to Customers' Checks.

WASHINGTON, July 14.—Secretary of State Hay received a call this morning from W. Barclay Parsons, the engineer representing the American railway concessionaires controlling the projected railroad from Canton to Hankow, China. Mr. Parsons explained, at some length, to the secretary the obstacles that have been encountered by his company in carrying out its plan. The Chinese government is ostensibly held to be obstructing the concessionaires, but behind that government, and urging it unwillingly on its course, are foreign influences, according to Mr. Parsons, which are striving to secure for themselves this concession. Mr. Parsons represented that an English company holding the concession for a line from Canton to Kowloon was prepared to unite interests with the American corporation and effect a combination to maintain themselves against these foreign influences. The British government would naturally look after the interests of its subjects, and the American corporation asks Secretary Hay to take similar action in the case of the Chinese government to permit of the execution of the concession. Secretary Hay promised to lay the matter before the President. The first step to be taken is to secure from United States Minister Conger, at Peking, an exact statement of the facts on which he proceeded in making his decision. The Chinese government has already been directed by the rival claims of England and Russia to railroad concessions in northern China, and the present conflict in the south promises to be quite as difficult of adjustment.

Later in the day it was stated the American minister in Peking had been instructed to use his good offices in all proper ways in behalf of the American company and to prevent injury to its interests. There is no foundation for the report that this action is taken in concurrence with that of the British government. There has been no communication between the two governments regarding the matter. The Chinese government has been asked for by the American company, and none has been recommended. The traditional policy of the State Department has been pursued in this as in other cases, the American diplomatic representatives being charged to assist in every way possible in the matter and to prevent injury to the interests of the company. In cases of competition between different American enterprises, the minister is warned not to favor one at the expense of the other, but to exert his good offices in all cases of contracts and competitions, so that American interests shall have an equal chance with those of other countries.

The Chinese minister, Mr. Wu Ting Fang, stated to-day that he has not been advised in an official manner of the combination between the American and British companies having certain concessions in China, or of any appeal to the respective governments. He said he did not care to discuss the effect or significance of such moves until he had learned of them in an official manner. The minister is deeply interested in everything that relates to the American concession, as it was granted through him in April, 1898, after extended conferences with several of the representatives of the late Senator Bruce.

In the original concession granted to the American company, it is stated that a Chinese company is engaged in the construction of railways, under imperial sanction, with Shing Tang as director general. The latter gives Wu Ting Fang, Chinese minister here, authority to make arrangements with American concerns. The agreement recites that the American-China Development Company "agrees to provide as a loan for the construction of the railway from the city of Han-Kow to the city of Canton the sum of \$4,000,000, or its equivalent in American dollars, gold, or more if necessary for the building and equipping of said road."

The \$4,000,000 is to be paid in installments as the work progresses, and the first installment is payable when the report of the engineer in chief of the American company shall be accepted by the company and approved by the director general, Shing Tang. Article 2 of the concession provides that "to secure the amount of the loan imperial Chinese gold bonds sufficient to net \$4,000,000 shall be turned over en bloc to the American company." These are to be signed by the director general of the Chinese company and by the Chinese minister in Washington. The bonds are to draw 5 per cent. interest, and are to be "similar in form to the recent issue of bonds secured by the Imperial Chinese customs," except that they shall be a first mortgage on the railway and the land on the right of way. Provision is made that the interest shall be paid to the Chinese people and their customs and for the formal execution of the terms of the agreement.

Commissioner Wilson, of the Internal Revenue Bureau, has issued a circular absolutely prohibiting banks from affixing stamps to checks unstamped when presented and requiring them to return the same to the drawers. In his circular to collectors the commissioner says: "You are directed to notify the banks that are guilty of stamping unstamped checks that if the practice is not immediately discontinued they will be reported to the United States district attorney for prosecution. The instruction contained in treasury decision No. 1900, under date of June 29, 1898, to the effect that there was no objection to the af-

fixing by the bank of the requisite stamps to an unstamped check presented for payment is hereby revoked. This instruction was given to meet an emergency immediately preceding the taking effect of the stamp act on July 1, 1898, in order to obviate the necessity of returning by the banks thousands of unstamped checks issued by drawers in ignorance of the law. The law being now generally understood there is no further need of such permission."

This action was taken upon information that certain banks had adopted the practice of not requiring stamps, as an advertisement to secure patronage as against rival banks.

The Cabinet meeting to-day was brief and unimportant. Attorney General Griggs and Secretary Wilson discussed about Secretary Alger left before the meeting adjourned in order to catch a train for Long Branch, where he goes as the guest of Vice President Hobart. The condition of postal affairs in Cuba, and Porto Rico was discussed, and Postmaster General Smith announced that a scheme for the reorganization of the service in those islands had been perfected. It contemplates the return of many of the Americans now connected with the service and the employment of natives in their stead. The franking privilege has been abolished in both islands, but a very limited number of administrative officers are allowed to use penny envelopes. Postmaster General Smith thinks the service in both islands will be maintaining.

Charles H. C. Blue has been appointed sub-letter carrier at Mundie.

Charles J. Bliss, Elkhardt; Charles S. McKown, Greenfield, and Otto S. Martin, Russell, were to-day appointed railway mail clerks.

Dr. W. T. Day, chief mineralogist of the Geological Survey, has received from George F. Kunz, the survey's expert, the annual summary of the gem industry in the United States. There were no native diamond finds, recorded for this country, but the importation of uncut diamonds increased greatly, and there was a corresponding development in diamond cutting. The United States. One of the most important domestic developments was the finding of rock crystals at Moketumne hill, California, of such size and purity as to almost rival those of Japan. These crystals have been cut up to a diameter of seven inches, a remarkable size for the class of work. The crystals are used in ornamental work and for a fine grade of optical lenses. There has been a decided increase in the output of the sapphires mines of Fergus county, Montana. Fine blue gems, up to carats, have been found. In the same locality new fields have been opened and beautiful stones of a wide range of color produced. The turquoise mines of New Mexico have continued their development, and new fields have been opened in Nevada. The production of turquoise fell off slightly between 1897 and 1898, but promises to more than recover this year. There have been finds of magnificent green tourmaline at Paris Hill, Maine, and Dan's Neck, Connecticut. The total value of the output of the United States for 1898, covering forty varieties, was \$160,000. Among the most important were sapphires, \$35,000; quartz crystal, \$17,000, and turquoise, \$50,000.

Mrs. Rich is to be surrendered to the Mexican authorities, to be tried for the murder of her husband. For days past telegrams and letters have been coming to the President and Secretary Hay, some almost hysterical in their content, and others protesting against the extradition of the woman. It has been represented that she is insane; that there are impending physical obstacles; that she is innocent of the crime charged against her, and finally that it would be an act of barbarism to place an American woman at the mercy of Mexican law and officials. All of these considerations have been weighed, and it has been decided that unless Mrs. Rich is surrendered there can be no hope of securing the surrender to our officers of the many Mexican border thieves and criminals who plunder on our side of the line and retreat into Mexico, so the precedent will be established.

In accordance with instructions from the postmaster general, a circular letter has been sent to postmasters in the first and second classes directing that whenever action is contemplated looking to the removal of a sailor or soldier of the civil or Spanish war all the facts in the case are to be communicated to Washington before action is taken. This is in accordance with the direction of the President.

First Assistant Postmaster General Heath today announced his decision sustaining the prevailing salary of the Chief of Station Superintendent Robert J. Lusk, of "Station G," of the New York city postoffice, whose reduction to an ordinary separator's place at \$1,000 was made a civil-service issue by the Civil-Service Reform League. The decision has an important general bearing. Mr. Heath holds that, after investigation, the salary of a station superintendent is a civil-service rule relative to reductions, except that they cannot be based on political or religious opinions or affiliations. In the absence of any rules the department has decided that changes in rank or compensation of any persons within the classified service is with the discretion of the head of the department, subject to this political or religious limitation. Section 8 of Civil-Service Rule II is held to clearly imply that a reduction in compensation or rank is not a "removal," as contemplated by the rules, and that all required of the appointing officer is to state upon the record the reasons for such changes, and he is not required to furnish the individual a statement and opportunity to answer.

Joaquin Yela, charged with the assassination of Guatemala, to-day wired Associated Press that he had just received the following official cablegram, dated July 13, from his home government: "Peace and perfect tranquility prevail all over the country."

Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week aggregate 3,263,815 bushels, against 2,753,972 last week, 2,910,821 in the corresponding week of 1898, 1,522,092 in 1897, 1,365,949 in 1896 and 1,652,892 in 1895. Since the 1st of this season, the exports of wheat aggregate 7,019,171 bushels, against 5,639,469 last year and 4,424,688 bushels in 1897-98. Corn exports for the week aggregate 4,533,739 bushels, against 4,967,144 last week, 2,823,848 in this week a year ago, 2,722,310 in 1897, 1,130,871 in 1896 and 885,513 in 1895. Since July 1, this season, corn exports aggregate 8,620,838 bushels, against 5,236,520 during the same period a year ago and 5,456,227 in 1897-98.

Business failures numbered 174, against 128 last week, 238 in this week a year ago, 247 in 1898 and 255 in 1897. The business failures in the Dominion of Canada numbered 87, as compared with 25 last week, 28 in this week a year ago, 28 in 1897, 32 in 1896 and 29 in 1895.

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